



# 26 OWS Newsletter



Volume 1, Issue 1

Nov - Dec 2001

## **Newsletter Launched! We need a name!**

Welcome to the first issue of the 26 OWS newsletter. We want this to be a forum for new services at the "hub", changes that will affect you in your career, outstanding achievements by our personnel and some weather tidbits. We need a catchy name for the newsletter. Got some good ideas? Send them to the editor at

[leslie.sexton@barksdale.af.mil](mailto:leslie.sexton@barksdale.af.mil)

## **Enlisted Skill Level Upgrade Fundamentals**

What's the 5- or 7-skill level upgrade training (UGT) process for enlisted weather apprentices/forecasters and why is it important? Understanding skill-level upgrade requirements helps a member (person in UGT) and supervisor effectively manage the upgrade process and increases the member's forecasting capabilities—and therefore the capability of the organization to perform its mission!

So what are the UGT requirements for enlisted weather apprentices/forecasters?

**-To upgrade to 5-Skill level:** complete mandatory career career development courses and mandatory quality training packages (CDCs/QTPs); complete 15 months (9 months for retrainees) of UGT; be certified on all required CORE tasks identified in the Career Field Education and Training Plan (CFETP) and other tasks identified by the supervisor; and obtain their supervisor's recommendation.

**-To upgrade to 7-Skill level:** complete mandatory career QTPs; complete 12 months (6 months for retrainees) UGT; be certified on all required CORE tasks identified in the Career Field Education and Training Plan and other tasks identified by the supervisor; complete the Craftsman (7-level) course; and finally obtain their supervisor's recommendation.

By achieving knowledge and performance requirements (QTPs, CFETP CORE tasks...) within the UGT schedule and applying the enhance/new skills members will consistently produce better quality forecasts. And providing quality weather support to operators is what we're all about. Do your part, whether you're a member in UGT or the supervisor, by understanding and effectively managing the UGT process.

For more information on the UGT process, speak with our Unit Education and Training Manager (**SSgt Vazquez**) or other Training and Standards Flight staff.

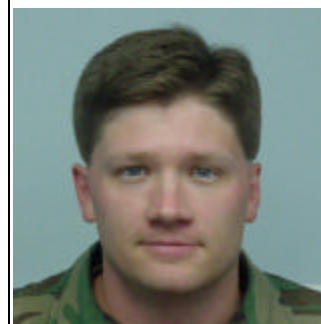
Submitted by: WXT (SMSgt Steven Yelenic)

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### **Welcome New First Sergeant MSgt Todd Montgomery**



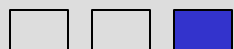


# 26 OWS Training & Production

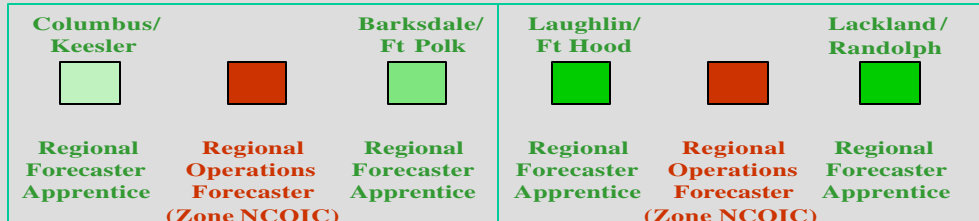
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## NEW LOOK FOR THE OPS FLOOR

### OPERATIONS FLOOR LAYOUT

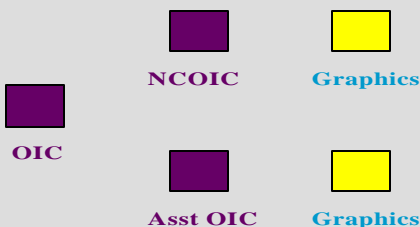


Flt Wx Briefers



#### Projected Manning – 14 Jan 01

	Present	Jan 02
OIC	1	1
NCOIC	1	1
Asst OIC	1	1
Experienced Forecasters	2	4
Forecaster Apprentices	7	9
<b>TOTAL PER 'TEAM'</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>



#### Responsibilities by Position

**Apprentice:** Metwatch/Data Collection (Local scale)

**(Regional Forecaster Apprentice)** : Produce TAFs, and resource protection products for two bases in their zone.

**Zone Boss:** Metwatch for a two base region (Local scale)

**(Regional Operations Forecaster)** Review all TAFs/resource protection products issued by interns, before they are sent to the QC Que; Ensure they are meteorologically sound and technically correct. Ensure horizontal consistency of products within the region. Give OJT and mentor

**NCOIC/Asst OIC:** Metwatch for respective Zone (Meso scale)

Produce all required graphics products.

Review and send to web, all products in the QC Que (i.e. graphics, TAFs, WWAs).

Ensure horizontal consistency of products within the zone.

Handle customer relations within the zone.

**\*\*NCOIC\*\*** -- Responsible for all enlisted personnel issues

**OIC:** Metwatch AOR (Synoptic scale).

Assist with QC of all products.

Ensure horizontal consistency of all products produced by the OWS. Ensure products are representative of actual weather and/or model of the day.

Model comparison and select model of the day.

Handle customer relations for the operations floor.

Orchestrate work-load / load shedding on ops floor.

Handle operations administrative issues.

Execute the Plan of the Day.



### October Seminars & Reviews

Two seminars and two forecast reviews were presented late September through October 2001. Please take the time to review these if you did not attend the presentations.

- Mr. Charles Lee, SAIC, presented "The Coming of Autumn – Seasonal Weather in the 26 OWS AOR" 28 September. Access on the shared drive <Y:\TRAINING\Proficiency Training\Seminars\Fall & Winter\The Coming of Autumn.ppt>

- SSgt Malone and SSgt (S) Forsten presented "Kelly AFB & Ft Hood Stratus Event" 17 October. Access on the shared drive <Y:\TRAINING\Proficiency Training\Forecast Reviews\October 2001\ Kelly and Ft Hood Stratus 8Oct01.ppt>

- Mr. James Buchanan, SAIC, presented "Forecasting Winter Weather.ppt" 26 October. Access on the shared drive <Y:\TRAINING\Proficiency Training\Seminars\Fall & Winter\Forecasting Winter Weather.ppt>

- SSgt(S) Wooten and A1C Deal presented "KSHP, KLTS & KEND Wind Event" 26 October. Access on the shared drive <Y:\TRAINING\Proficiency Training\Forecast Reviews\October 2001\Sheppard, Altus and Vance Winds 5 Oct01.ppt>

Submitted by: WXT (SMSgt Steven Yelenic)



### Why Winds Are Important

In 1915, Germany's use of poisonous gas backfires when wind blows the poisonous chemical back onto German lines and destroys 4 Prussian regiments.

## OPS FLOOR PRODUCTION

- Flight Weather Briefings YTD - @ 4300
- Resource Protection Products YTD - @ 3000
- Daily Terminal Forecasts - 30

- Installations Currently Supported
  - Active Duty - 12
  - 10 full time support
  - 2 part time support
  - Guard/Reserve - 23

"In any combat operation or any conflict, weather's probably your No. 1 concern," Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said this week. "It's no different in Afghanistan."



# From the Chief



## Glass Houses

Most forecasters have probably relieved an off-going shift, reviewed the forecast, and thought, "what in the world were they thinking?" If you're tempted into thinking along this line, step back and ask yourself, "I wonder if anyone ever questioned the validity of one of my forecasts?" I'll bet they have! Fact is, we all forecast from within "glass houses", and need to be careful of the stones we cast. I'm not saying we shouldn't question our peers' forecasts, since familiarizing ourselves with each others' thought processes can only make us better forecasters. As we improve our individual skills we also enhance the overall AFW forecasting process by maintaining positive communication flow during forecast discussions and placing ourselves in the OWS or CWT forecasters' position.

Maintaining positive communication during the forecast discussion is paramount to a successful "team built" product. Although we strive for perfection, rarely (if ever) are forecasts perfect. Sure, we may provide an accurate onset and duration of forecast phenomena. However, even on a clear and a million day, we have individual opinions on the forecast derived through collecting, analyzing, predicting, and tailoring a huge mass of available weather data. Listen and try to understand why the other forecaster believes the atmosphere will "react" in a certain manner. Avoid getting emotional or maintaining a negative outlook on the communication process because either could result in ceasing the information flow or producing a less accurate forecast. Both the CWT and OWS must avoid forecasts based on gut feeling, and in doing so, forecasters should be able to put themselves in their counterpart's position.

The OWS requires forecast product coordination with the supported CWT customer. Before casting stones, those at the OWS must realize the CWT tailors forecast products to meet the war fighter's needs and/or to brief their wing leadership. In addition, those in the CWT should understand that in most cases the OWS has 2, 3, or more instructor meteorologists, experienced forecasters, and/or apprentices involved in the forecast process. This does not infer every forecast, weather watch, warning, or advisory will be fully agreed upon by both parties, but a consensus should be reached in nearly all cases through civil discussion about the available data.

During a relatively short 3-month tenure here at the OWS, I will say I'm pleasantly surprised with the amount of positive communication between the CWTs and OWS. Sure there are forecast disagreements. However, in each case we all learn, not only adding to our forecasting tool kits, but also how to get along with weather folks across the AOR. Remember the stones cast today may eventually crack the panes of your own "glass house" tomorrow. I thank each of you for the opportunity to serve as the 26 OWS Superintendent, and I look forward to meeting many of you in the upcoming years.

CMSgt Bob Haines, 26 OWS Superintendent

